



## **2016 POLICY PRIORITIES**

- 1. Defend current education reform legislation to prevent rollback and defunding.**
- 2. Expand high-quality early childhood opportunities for low-income children.**
  - Increase the number of high-quality early childhood slots for low-income children utilizing remaining unused funds from Smart Start to fund School Readiness (Legislative Recommendation);
  - Accelerate implementation of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) to help parents make informed decisions about which preschool programs their children should attend and to incentivize preschool improvement (Administrative Recommendation); and
  - Streamline the licensing of early childhood teachers to increase the number of qualified educators teaching in publicly funded preschool programs (Administrative Recommendation).
- 3. Broaden the pool of high-quality leaders.**
  - Expand the successful Achievement First Alternative Route to Certification (ARC) program for administrators to provide leadership for Connecticut's Alliance Districts (Administrative Recommendation); and
  - Require the Commissioner of Education to enter into reciprocity agreements with other states to facilitate administrator certification (Legislative Recommendation).
- 4. Promote excellent teaching.**
  - Require teacher candidates to complete performance assessments prior to certification that measure their ability to produce lesson plans, teach, and evaluate students (Administrative Recommendation);
  - Simplify the certification process for science teachers (Administrative Recommendation); and
  - Require districts to publicly report aggregated, anonymous data on teacher evaluations (Legislative Recommendation).
- 5. Invest intelligently in the programs designed to increase student achievement.**
  - Annually evaluate the Alliance District and Commissioner's Network programs to ensure that public funds are being invested effectively on turnaround efforts (Administrative Recommendation).
- 6. Require the SBOE to create models for districts to reduce student testing burden.**  
(Administrative Recommendation)